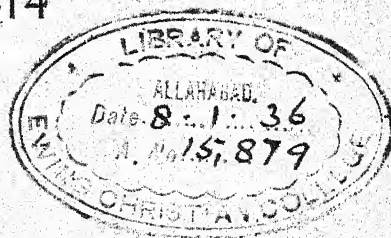
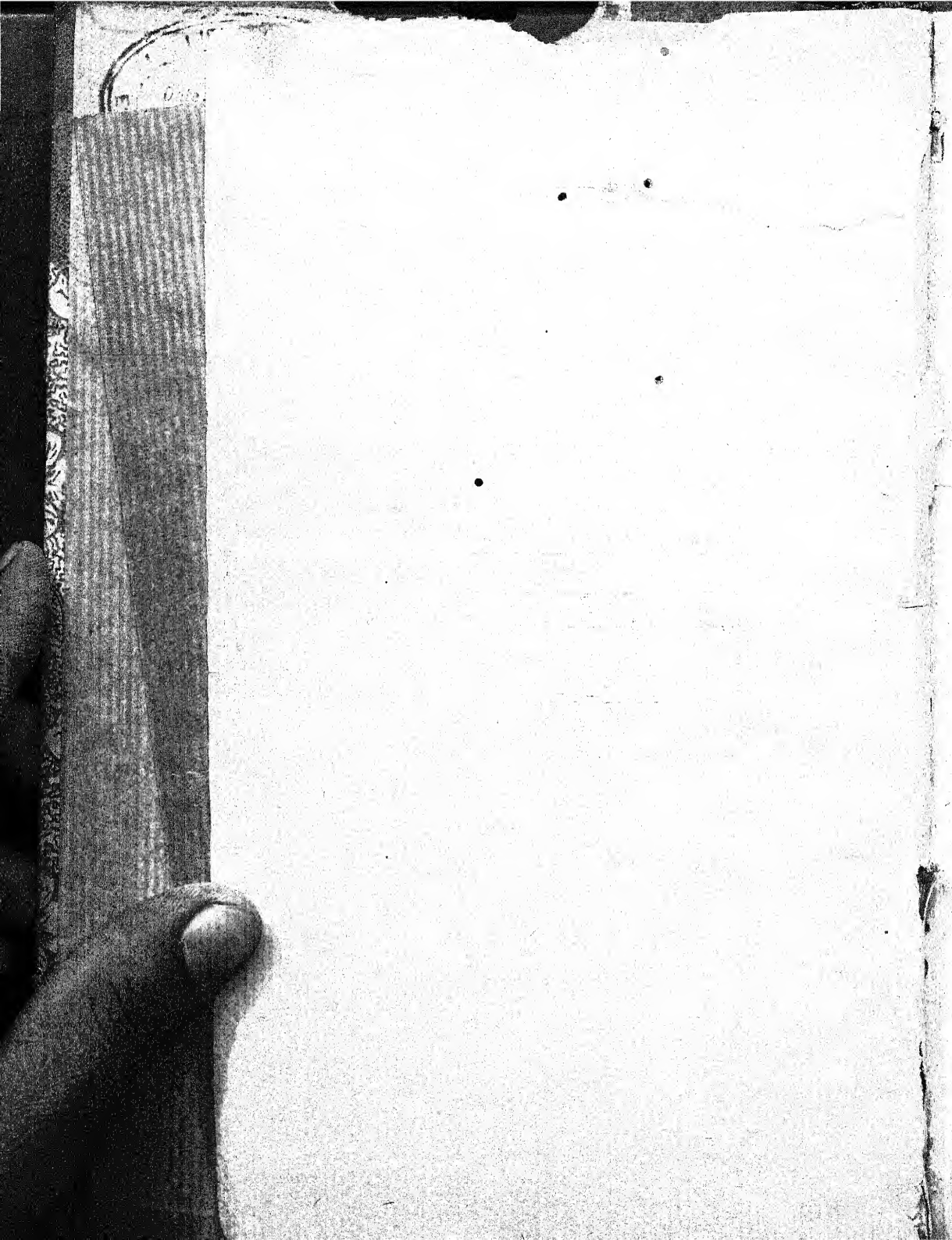


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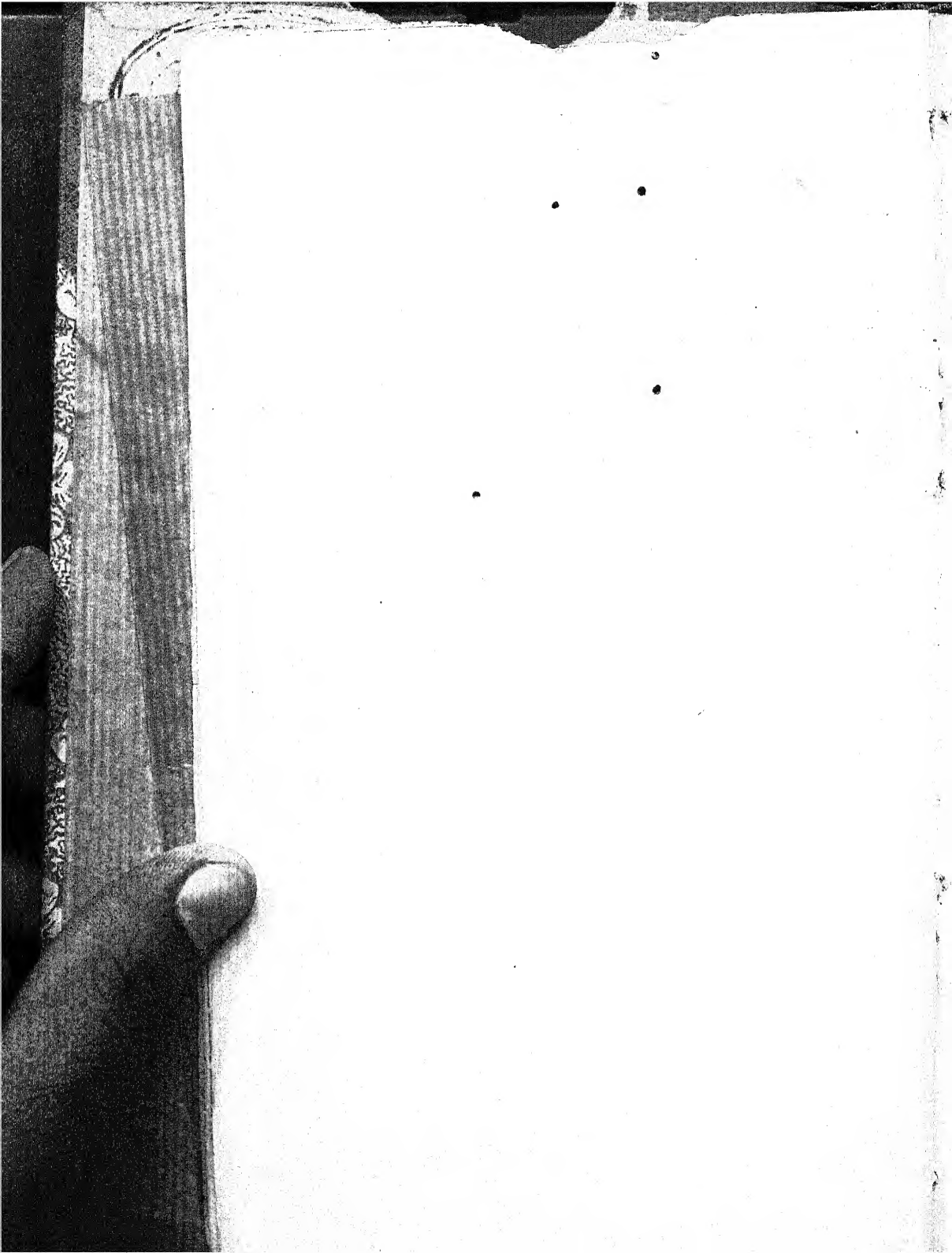
MR. BALFOUR ON THE LARGER PATRIOTISM

I do not want, as a Scotsman among Scotsmen, to say more in praising ourselves. In the first place, I think in the opinion of most Scotsmen it is an unnecessary operation. (*Laughter.*) We have got that kind of unassailable self-content which makes us perfectly indifferent to hostile criticism. (*Laughter.*) We pity our critics, but we do not think it necessary to be angry with them. (*Laughter.*)

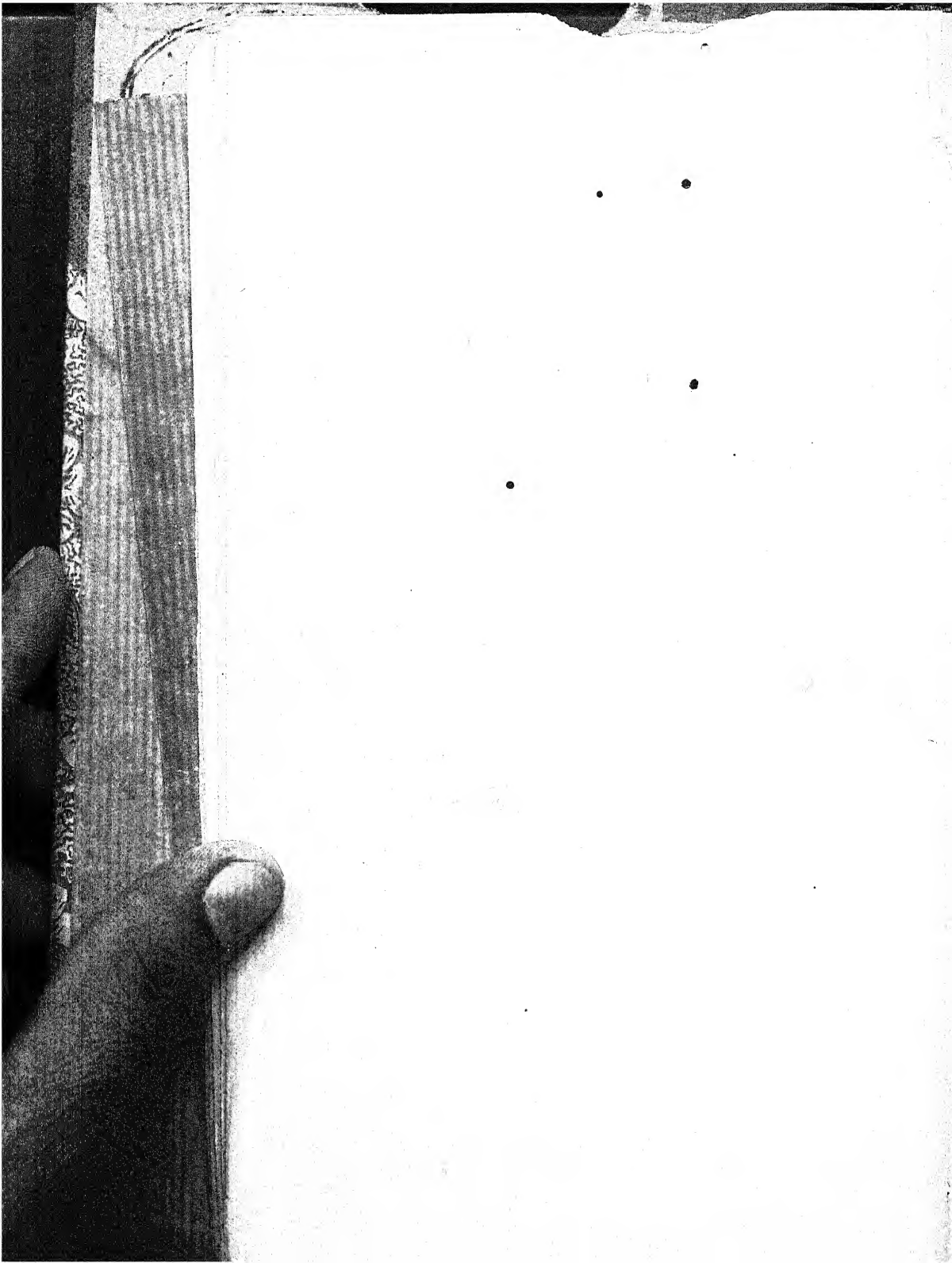
And yet there is one praise which I hope I may be permitted to give to our common country. It is this: that I think we really have beyond all the world set an example of how to reconcile, naturally and completely and without effort, two things which at first sight do not seem easily reconcilable—I mean an intense and ardent patriotism for a part which yet only reinforces and strengthens the larger patriotism for the whole. (*Cheers.*) Believe me, this possibility is of more importance than at first sight appears. The doctrine of nationality, which has played so great and so beneficent a part in the construction and reconstruction of the modern world, has been a great engine for uniting mankind and sections of mankind. Occasionally here and there it has had the opposite and the ill consequence of dividing mankind.

I do not think I am over-praising ourselves when I say that we Scotsmen have seen how absolutely to reconcile the principle of nationality, the feeling of nationality, the consciousness of a separate history in many respects, during many formative and important centuries, and yet to be able to do this without feeling that there is in it any antagonism whatever to that patriotism, not more ardent indeed, but larger in its scope, which includes Great Britain, and not Great Britain only, but the whole Empire of which we are citizens. (*Cheers.*) It is only by following the example we have set that the future of that Empire can be made absolutely secure. (*Cheers.*)





Another feature of the fiction market, which grows more cosmopolitan in its taste every year, has been the unusual number of translations of Continental novels. One of the most remarkable features in 1912 has probably been the vogue of the various libraries of little books on great subjects inaugurated, it is only fair to point out, by the Cambridge University Press, with its scholarly series of shilling Manuals of Science and Literature, the first 50 volumes of which were completed in October. A wider appeal is, perhaps, made by Messrs. Williams and Norgate's "Home University Library," and it is interesting to learn that the popular success of many of the volumes in this series has often been where, from the nature of the subject, it was least expected. A ready market for the whole series has also been found in the Colonies, Australia and New Zealand in particular realizing its possibilities at once, while Canada is now following suit. Books which are not only up to date and cheap, but also administer culture in tabloid form, find an increasingly cordial welcome in the Colonies. It is worth noting in the gift book season that all these volumes are now issued in leather bindings as well as in cloth.



BIOGRAPHY.

The outstanding biographies may be said to be three. The inexhaustible attraction of Victorian Court history would in itself be sufficient to account for the success of two of them. But the English public has already discovered that in *THE GIRLHOOD OF QUEEN VICTORIA* (Murray, 36s. net), with its intimate extracts from the Queen's diary from her 13th year up to her marriage, edited by Lord Esher, they have one of the most engaging, and to all Britons most engrossing, revelations of Royal life that have ever been published. And they have fastened with almost equal avidity on a book which pictures with charming candour the same intensely interesting life at a slightly later period and from a different angle--namely: *THE CORRESPONDENCE OF SARAH SPENCER LADY LYTTELTON* (Murray, 15s. net). The last of the three books in the field of biography which rise as landmarks above the smaller hillocks in the surrounding country is the second volume of Mr. Monypenny's *LIFE OF BENJAMIN DISRAELI, EARL OF BEACONSFIELD* (Murray, 12s. 6d. net).

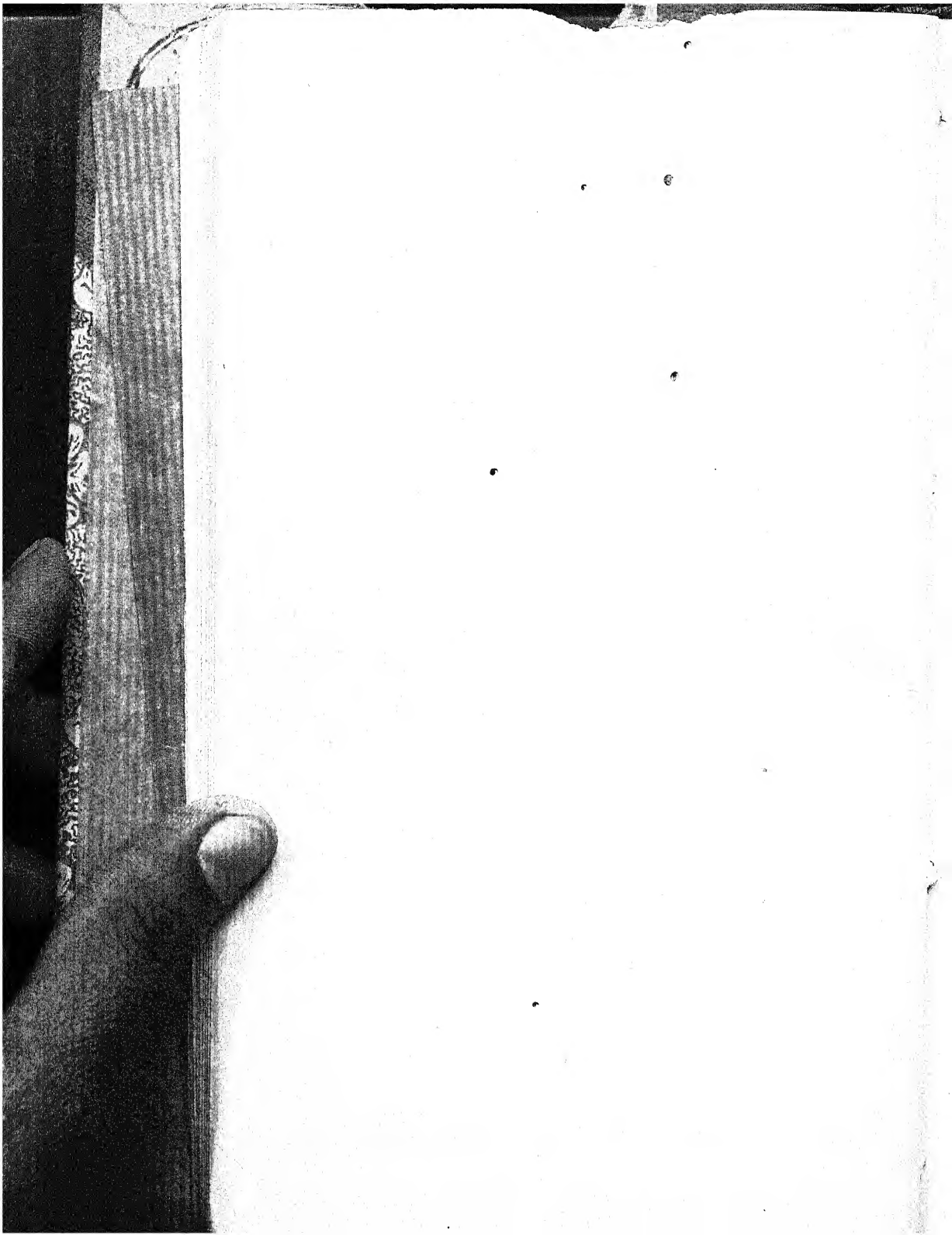
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THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.
LORD HALDANE'S REPLY TO
LORD ROBERTS.

The Lord Chancellor, presiding last Friday at the Eighty Club's dinner to Mr. Churchill, replied to Lord Robert's recent criticisms of the Territorial Force. He said :—

There was no such thing as an expert in higher strategy unless that expert was somebody who was not only an expert in a particular department—military affairs, for instance—but was also an expert in the sense that he had studied in a school alongside of men who were experts in naval matters and in affairs of statesmanship. Their system of national defence rested upon understanding what it was that they as an island centre of an Empire had to protect and defend, and that involved the sailor, the soldier, and the statesman. It involved even the consideration of finance, because they could not keep up a great armament unless they took care that their social arrangements were such that the people had the best chance of being rich and of being able to bear a burden from which they could not escape. They could not separate the naval side of defence from the military side, or either from statesmanship. That was why he was bound to speak out strongly on one matter. No one had a greater veneration for the figure of Lord Roberts than he had. He had done great things for his country. He was one of the most distinguished leaders of troops in the field whom they possessed. But it was one thing to lead troops in the field, and another to be a strategist. Until a man was a strategist he could not fashion plans and organizations for the defence of the country. What he missed in the Lord Roberts of to-day was just that understanding of the point of view of the seaman and of the statesman which was absolutely vital if they were to make a proper military organization.



The signature of the peace between Turkey and the Allies still leaves a wide field for diplomacy. There are questions to be settled by the Powers, questions to be settled between the late belligerents, and questions to be settled between the Allies themselves. The Powers have given the world such signal proofs of their real devotion to peace and of their readiness and their ability to adjust controverted points by fair compromise that we feel confident they will agree upon the points still outstanding, numerous and delicate though they are. They have inspired in the masses throughout Europe a new faith in the sincerity of that devotion, and a new trust in diplomacy as a strong rampart against the strife of nations. Those feelings are yet plants of tender growth, but the mere fact that they show signs of taking root in the popular mind is of almost incalculable promise to mankind. We are no believers in the near advent of universal peace, and we know well that in this instance diplomacy has averted war because behind diplomacy was the balance of armed power. But it is impossible to look back upon the long and troubled history of the Near Eastern question without feeling that at no former time could it have been brought so far towards solution by the unanimous action of the Great Powers. That lesson will not be lost upon mankind. Inevitably it will foster the hope that the instrument which has been so efficacious in this most dreaded of international controversies may not be impotent for the peaceable decision of others.

THE END OF THE WAR.

Turkey and the Allies signed last Friday the Treaty which consecrates the results of the war and closes a great chapter in the history of the world. The practical extinction of the Ottoman dominion in Europe and the rise in its stead of new and vigorous young communities, akin in blood and in creed to the rest of Christendom, is an event so rich in memories and so momentous in possible results that it stands beyond and above the reach of imagination and of judgment. As we look back the mind is overburdened by the story of a struggle in which the Crusades were but an episode and the rise of Islam a fateful incident—the secular struggle between the civilizations of the East and of the West. As we look forward, we are conscious of a future so dim and so uncertain, fraught with such untold possibilities of good and overhung by such serious menaces of evil, that the wisest must shrink from prediction of its course. Time alone can enable us to grasp the full significance of this new Risorgimento, and help us slowly to see what seed will grow and what will not of those that it has sown.

One thing, we think, is made clear by a reading of the whole recital. The makers of the League had no conception of the almost instant and astonishing results which were to flow from their work. They sought to present a united front to Turkey, but they never dreamed of seeing themselves pouring outwards so speedily over the remnants of Turkish territory in Europe. There came a time when events swept them off their feet, and when they could neither halt nor look back. At the outset the makers of the League never quite saw whither their footsteps were trending. We are not at all sure that their vision is much clearer to-day. They extorted the admiration of Europe by the swiftness of their triumph. They are in grave danger of changing admiration into ridicule through the folly of their recent quarrels. The whole history of the Balkan Peninsula is compounded of the ruin wrought by internal strife. It was the squabbles of the Balkan peoples and their leaders which gave the conquering Turk his opportunity centuries ago. The Balkan States are forgetting the lessons of the past. Disunion left them for ages beneath the heel of the oppressor. They have united at last, and in the very hour of victory are wilfully repeating the mistakes of their ancestors. Through unity the Balkan peoples have been enabled to fight their way to freedom. They may rest assured that only through continued unity of effort will their rescued compatriots be able to retain their new-found liberties.

The *Times* addresses an impressive warning to the Balkan States. A war between the victors, it says, would be more tragic than any event which has happened in the Balkan Peninsula in the last five hundred years. It would have results more disastrous than the Ottoman conquest, because it would make Europe despair of the efficacy of Western civilization. At the moment, however, there does not seem much prospect of Bulgaria, at any rate profiting by this homily. King Ferdinand appears to be in a very peremptory, high-handed frame of mind. But Dr. Dillon thinks there is far more danger to Europe from the internal condition of Turkey than from the squabbles of the nationalities of the Balkans.

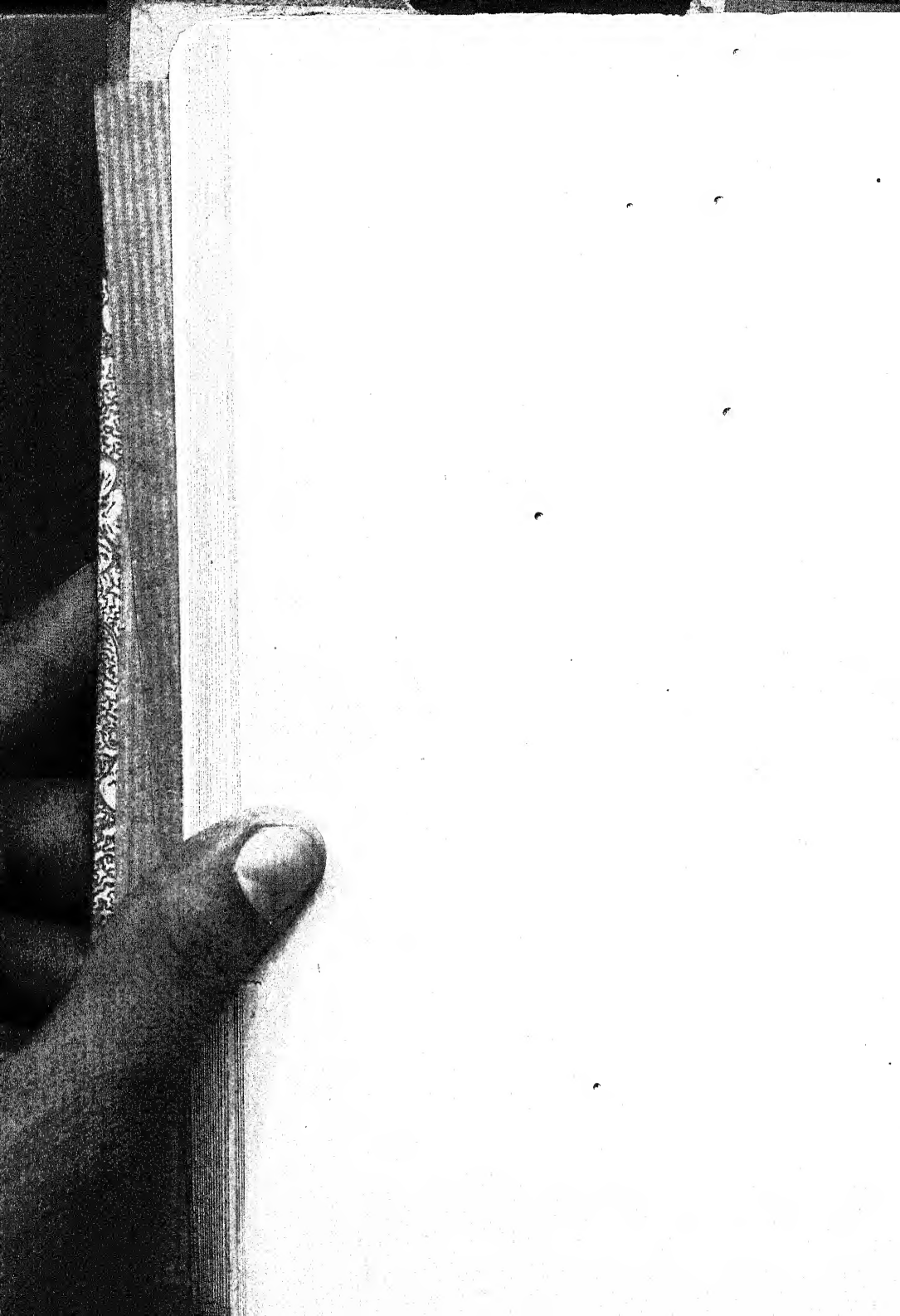
MR. CHURCHILL'S "HEPTARCHY."

The General application of systems of self-government to the United Kingdom was referred to by Mr. Churchill in a speech to the Eighty Club last Friday.

Some time ago, he said, he delivered at Dundee (*laughter*) a speculative and tentative oration upon the subject of federalism. He had nothing to withdraw. He believed that a preliminary to all successful forms of devolution in Great Britain was the creation of an Irish Parliament for the management of Irish affairs, and the consequent removal of the Irish question from the centre of British affairs. And he looked forward to the time when other measures of self-government, not necessarily the same as the Home Rule Bill or necessarily uniform in each case, but equally adapted to meet the special needs would be applied to Scotland and Wales. And when that time came—he spoke for himself—he believed it would be found that the satisfaction of the special needs of England might best be met by the creation of much larger and much stronger units of local government than any—except, perhaps, in London—which existed at the present time, while at all times the Imperial Parliament, in which English members outnumbered all nationalities by more than two to one, would remain the single sovereign Assembly for the government of the United Kingdom. Those were views which he trusted might continue to receive the attention of the public.

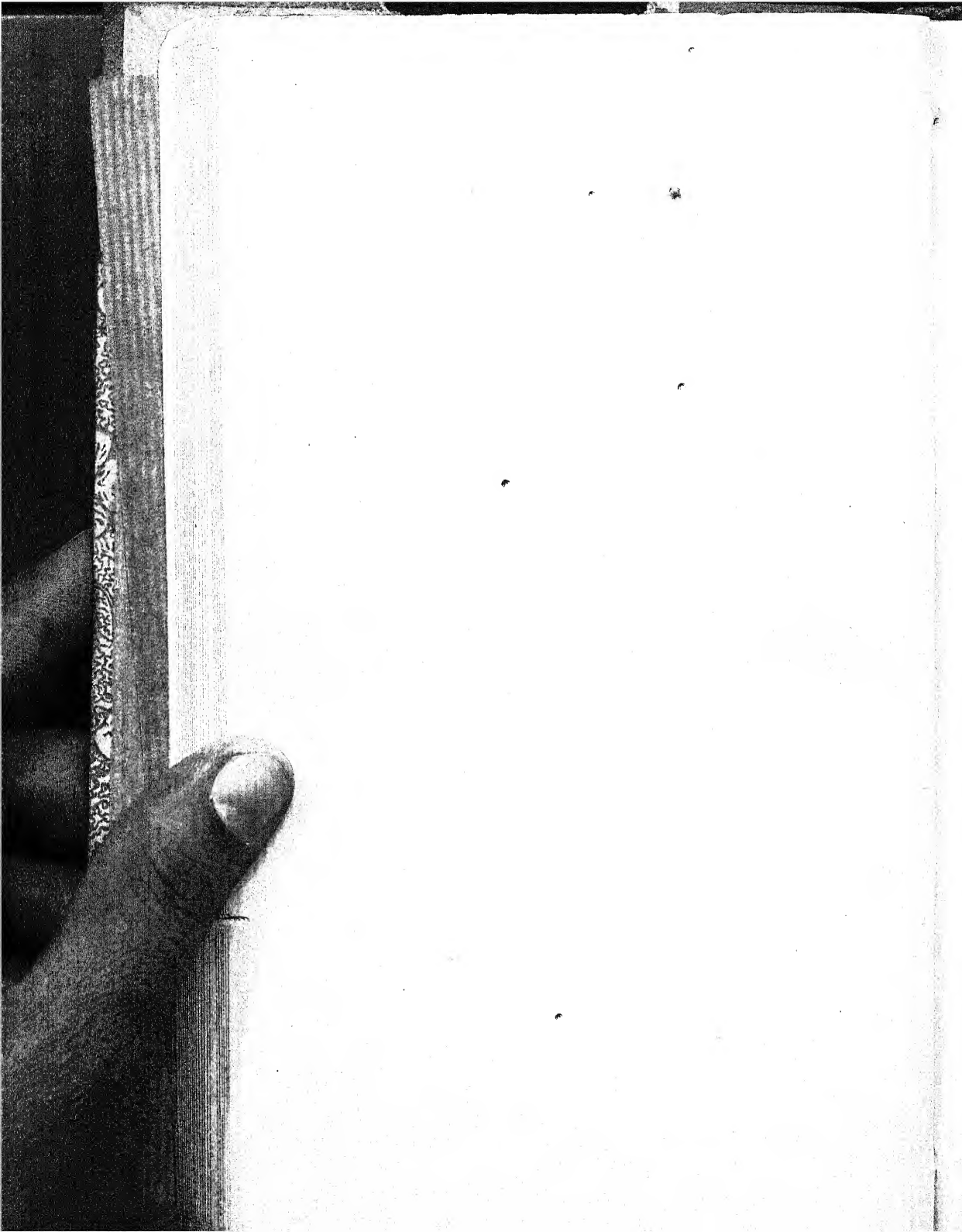
(LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES).

The knowledge of languages possessed by a very great many Bulgarians is amazing, but in the case of some of the Censors it was not complete enough to enable them to understand the abbreviated language of telegrams and picture postcards. Correspondents bursting with a piece of exclusive information had to listen to their telegrams being spelled out to the whole room while their rivals were asked as to the meaning of certain words. Many words of concise meaning had to be cut out because they were not familiar to the Censor and ambiguous ones, which came nearer his notions, substituted. One man wrote a postcard to his little daughter and addressed her as "Darling Popsie" The Censor astutely associated "pop" with "gun," and it needed a long discourse on English pet-names to reassure him. While plenty of Censors had been provided at Mustafa Pasha, lines of communication had been overlooked and after the army of correspondents had been at work a few hours the two or three telegraph lines were days behind. So telegrams, which correspondents had waited as much as four hours outside the telegraph office to get on the wire, were sent to Stara Zagora by post, and the Censor there censored them again. I am told that sometimes the Censor at Sofia had a further hack at them. Had the correspondents desired, they could easily have evaded the Censor, because after the Censor had done his work the telegrams were handed back to the correspondents to carry to the telegraph office some distance away. Letters were initialled and stamped, and handed back for posting. It should be said that this pathetic confidence was appreciated and respected, at least by those capable of doing so.



BETTER PAY FOR THE NAVY.

We may all agree in congratulating MR. CHURCHILL upon the manner in which he has carried out his promise to deal with the rates of pay for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. The statement just issued as a White Paper shows that he has spared no trouble in investigating a very complex set of facts, and in making remedial measures to correspond to the real wishes of the men concerned. No rough-and-ready general alteration, done by a stroke of the pen, would have availed to remove the discontent unquestionably existing in the lower grades of the Service. The interests and the claims of the various ratings and grades vary widely, and can be rationally met only by the detailed study which MR. CHURCHILL has evidently bestowed upon the subject. Running through the whole scheme there is obviously a definite effort to get rid of anomalies, to secure greater simplicity, and to give reality to boons which have sometimes existed only upon paper. MR. CHURCHILL has had the Treasury to deal with, and has not been able to do all that he would have wished to do; but it is believed by those in touch with the men that what he has done will go a long way to remove the sense of hardship and to place the pay of the navy upon a basis that will prove upon the whole satisfactory for sometime to come.



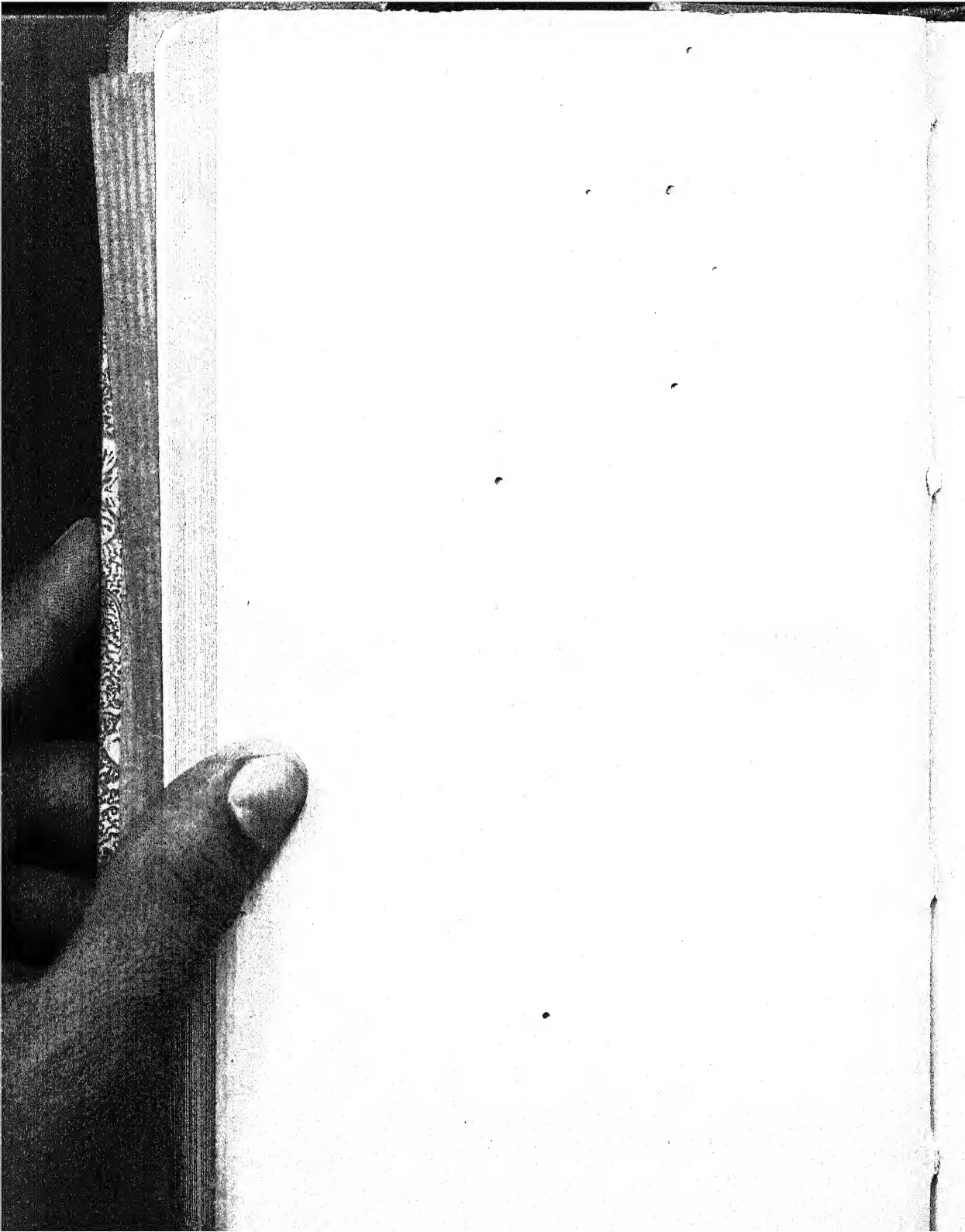
THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN JAPAN.

The letter which we publish from our Tokyo Correspondent throws considerable light upon the recent political complications in Japan. The real origin of the present troubles is undoubtedly economic pressure. The burdens of the nation have been increased until they can only be borne with the utmost difficulty. The heavy taxation, which was accepted with cheerfulness during the excitement of the war, has not been appreciably lightened. Meanwhile the cost of living has risen, and the masses are unwilling to face much longer the dual strain of high prices and heavy taxes. The military party sought to impose further demands which were deeply resented. The outcry which followed led the spokesmen of the populace to seek for means of redress. They blamed the bureaucracy and the Elder Statesmen, and were even ready, as events proved, to pay small heed to the advice of the THRONE. It seemed to them that the best remedy was to be found in a closer approximation to the methods of constitutional government, and upon that object all their efforts centred. A solution was found in a compromise.

THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH

The German Ambassador, who was warmly cheered; said:—

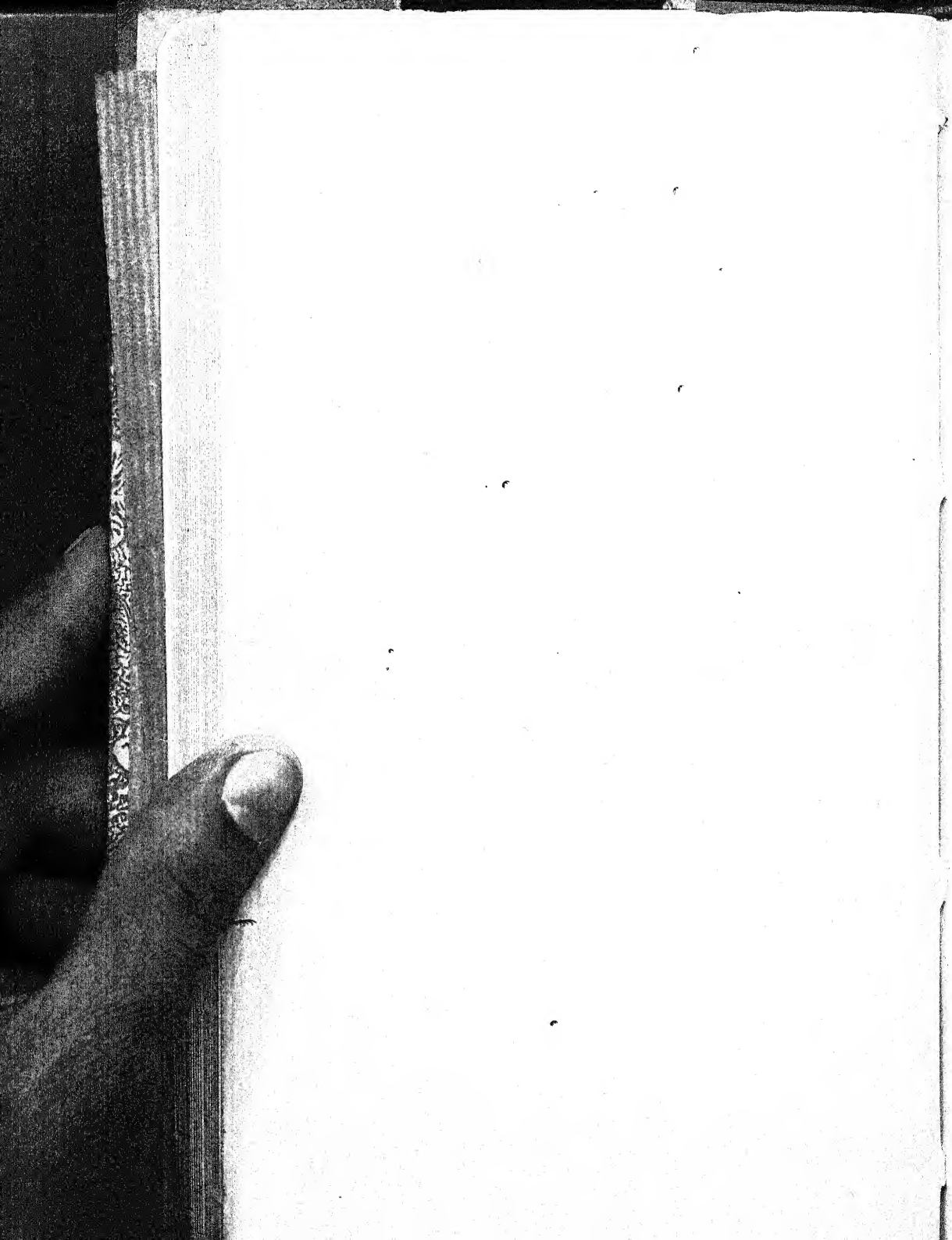
Of all bonds that unite nations none are stronger than intellectual sympathy, and nothing is more apt to promote a real and lasting understanding between nations than the common struggle against darkness, ignorance, and misery. (*Cheers.*) I am happy to be able to state that from time immemorial a close connexion has existed between the intellectual leaders of our two great countries. Carlyle's book on Frederick the Great is a standard work, unrivalled, and of the works of all foreign historians the most popular in Germany. Hume was the predecessor of Kant and Schopenhauer, and I do not believe that in any country in the world are Shakespeare and Byron more fully appreciated or deeply understood than in Germany. (*Cheers.*) I am confident that this close intellectual connexion will in the future as in the past be a powerful help to the efforts of all those who work for the establishment of good understanding and harmony between our two kindred people. I am also thankful for the kind words of welcome that the President has addressed to me, thus adding one more to the numerous tokens of friendly feeling that I have encountered during my short stay in these hospitable realms, and I hope that I may understand that the warmth of sympathy professed to my person can be interpreted as being equally meant for the country I have the honour of representing. (*Cheers.*) Most luckily I can avail myself of this opportunity of stating that never between England and Germany have there been more intimate and more sincere relations than at present. (*Cheers.*) Both countries are working side by side in the same cause of maintaining European peace. (*Cheers.*) It will always be my most anxious desire further to develop this auspicious beginning of my career in England, to the benefit, I hope, of both nations. (*Cheers.*)



MR. J. M. BARRIE ON STYLE.

At a meeting of the Academic Committee of the Royal Society of Literature in Caxton Hall last week the Edmond de Polignac prize was awarded to Mr. John Masefield for his poem "The Everlasting Mercy."

Mr. J. M. Barrie, who presided, said that the Committee existed to attend to the standards of style in this country. He remembered long ago being in the company of a very distinguished writer. They were in a club where they were always talking about style, and on that occasion every one was very brilliant on the subject. At last his friend said something, and in comparison what he said sounded rather childish. How strange it was, and yet, perhaps, not strange at all, that the only man among them who had a style was the only one who did not seem to know all about it. Style, he fancied, was simply the way in which an artist painted his picture. There was no other difference between a Venus by Titian and a Venus by Tom Smith. It sounded rather hard on Tom. Mr. Verrall was a "little candle," as all men were, but one who cast widely the beams of fine scholarship and a sacred flame. He had found his grave in the hearts of all young men. It was there he had painted his picture. He (Mr. Barrie) first met Mr. Lang at St. Andrews, which, he understood, most of them thought was called after him. Mr. Lang was as Scotch as peat. Lang and Stevenson were two Scottish musketeers. All through their style could be heard what Mr. Howells called the swashbuckler swashing on his buckler. He thought Mr. Lang always puzzled the Sassenach a little. That was one of the duties of the Scot. He was so prodigal with his showers of gold and so wayward. There was a touch of the elf about him. "A touch," hardly seemed quite right, because one could never touch him—he was too elusive for that.



CHARLES DICKENS. BY ALGERNON CHARLES
SWINBURNE.

Swinburne was a fine critic, but he is not at his best in this book. He seems to be always protesting in it against a depreciation of Dickens which is as obsolete as his protest. We do not now need to be told violently that Dickens was a great writer; and Swinburne here often seems a belated Jonah preaching to a converted Nineveh. Yet here, as always, he says good things. Thus he remarks that, in Dickens, where language is rhetorical and theatrical action is usually natural and credible. Characters like Nancy and Mrs. Bounderby do not do themselves justice when they talk about themselves. "On the literary and sentimental side of his work Dickens was but a type of his generation and his class; on the comic and pathetic, the tragic and the creative side, he was not of an age, but for all time." At first he was popular because of those literary and sentimental vices which belonged to his age. "Little Nell" was thought to be his masterpiece; and then came a time when she was thrown in his teeth. But he would not have survived this reaction if his weaknesses had not been accidents of his genius, like the Elizabethan weaknesses of Shakespeare. His sentimentalities are forgiven because he was not by nature sentimental, as we forgive the anger of a hot-tempered man who is naturally kind. In the conception of his characters, in his whole view of life, Dickens is right by instinct. He only went wrong when he tried to make the public of his own day see that he was right, when he explained matters in terms which he thought would appeal to them. This rightness of his is proved by his successes in fiction and by their predominance over his failures; but it is proved even more clearly by his other writings; not much read now, but enough by themselves to give him fame if he had written no novels.

A clever youth, when he begins to write, often makes the mistake of addressing himself to an audience that does not exist, an audience that shares with him, his own opinion of himself. To this audience he behaves as if his authority were already established; and it is no wonder that the real audience which has never heard of him should find him too familiar and too confident, and should very quickly cease to be an audience at all. Or, perhaps, if he has more than the usual cleverness, he gains a little reputation, which encourages him to live upon his cleverness alone. But no writer can do that: for genius and talent alike can only be nourished upon knowledge and experience, and cleverness that is not so nourished soon becomes, dullness. In every decade there are writers who begin brightly enough, who are modish at thirty and dowdy at forty. Their capital at starting is the vivacity of youth; and, when that is spent, they have nothing to take its place. In every trade and profession knowledge is needed; and literature only differs from the others in that it needs a knowledge not special to itself, besides its own peculiar technical skill. A writer, who is generally ignorant, falls into bad habits of style the more he tries to be a stylist, because he attempts to compensate with his style for his lack of matter. That cannot be done; and the effort to do it produces "the contortions of the Sibyl without her inspirations," or the pertness of wit without its point. Mere cleverness is one of the most useless of qualities; the world will not reward it in other professions, and there is no reason why it should be rewarded in literature.

Critics of the planning of New Delhi have taken exception to more than the building of a ceremonial Capital, though what this is exactly they have not been at the pains to explain. Lord Curzon has expressed the opinion that the Government of India should not be too ready to spend crores of rupees in palaces, cathedrals and halls, "but should adapt themselves to the restricted circumstances of the case"—an oracular utterance which is so indefinite that it needs to be elucidated. He added a gloomy prediction as to what would happen "if a great, glorious and pompous Capital" were set up, but he did not indicate what should exactly be done. When he comes to read the description of the lay-out he may descend to particulars; but meanwhile public opinion may pronounce its verdict upon the scheme of the town-planners. If we mistake not, the general view will be that if Imperial Delhi is to be worthy of its existence as the Capital of India it must be built much on the lines laid down in the reports that we are considering. There must be buildings of great architectural beauty and even grandeur, broad avenues and open spaces. To do less than this would be to stultify the policy that has declared Delhi to be the Capital of India. A sham and pinchbeck city, to be the gathering point for Durbars at long intervals, would indeed be a disastrous creation, however much it might deserve the title of "ceremonial." Looking to the distant future we can see Imperial Delhi "great and glorious" and for the epithet "pompous" we would substitute the commonplace term "prosperous."



LITERATURE AS A PROFESSION.

The speeches at the recent dinner of the Royal Literary Fund have not unnaturally revived discussion of the unequal and precarious rewards of literature. Yet, whatever may be said against literature as a means of earning a living, there are in every generation more writers than the world needs. They know all that has been said against it. The examples of neglected genius are notorious, and no less notorious is the everlasting perversity of the public, who are equally blind to the merit of their own time and contemptuous of the same blindness in their ancestors. And yet, knowing all this, there are now more youths, than ever, eager to be writers. There are more, indeed, than the public could possibly read, even if it regarded reading as a sacred duty ; and it can only protect itself against their importunities by a dazed indifference like that of harassed tourists in the East. Literature, unfortunately, is one of those professions which have a prestige and which therefore, are always too full. As any young barrister may be a future Lord Chancellor, so any young writer may become as famous as BYRON or SHELLEY.

In the novels we do not notice how well he (Dickens) writes, because we are so much absorbed by the matter. We are more aware of his style in his occasional writings, if we happen to know them and also of the keenness of his intellect. Nothing grows stale more quickly than journalism, for the clever journalist usually expresses the fashionable ideas of the decade ; and when that is past every one is sick of them and of the affected vivacity with which he has expressed them. These occasional writings of Dickens were journalism, yet they have not grown stale and their vivacity does not seem affected. They are written in a style which is not at all dowdy or Victorian, but which seems rather to belong to the eighteenth century, except that it is nearer to actual speech. Indeed, Dickens, when he was not misled by his admiration of Carlyle, wrote as no sentimentalist ever could write, with sentences as well balanced in structure as in thought. When he fell into poetical prose it must have been against his own better judgment, for he understood the peculiar virtues of prose as well as Swift or Defoe. Perhaps his poetical prose is so bad because he did not enjoy writing it and produced it to please others rather than himself. He was not by nature a poet, but a creator, reasoner, jester, story-teller on the prose level of emotion : and he enjoys himself most and does himself most justice when he has no poetic ambitions.

EXHIBITION AT THE LEICESTER GALLERIES.

It is the critic's duty to praise the best of his own time as confidently as if it were 300 years old. He may be only backing his own opinion instead of the opinion of generations: but if he is too timid to do that, he has no business to be a critic. We therefore make bold to say that we think Mr. Beerbohm the greatest of English comic artists. That is not such high praise as it sounds: for our national brutality and afterwards our national love of compromise have blunted and enfeebled most of our comic art. But Mr. Beerbohm is not brutal, nor does he compromise. He has evidently clear and strong views of his own and he has the power of expressing them in a drawing as precisely as a great writer could express them in words. He has also the rare power, without which no one can be an original artist, of forming mental images from memory, so that his caricatures, like fine portraits, record his impressions not of sitters but of men as they live and move and have their being. He can also form a mental image of an idea so precise that it has the force of language or explains itself to the mind with only the slightest help of the written word. Many of his ideas seem to be literary; that is to say, one could not see all the excellence of the drawing without the verbal explanation. But the two work together as perfectly as words and music in a good song, and they cannot be separated without spoiling both. There is, for instance, the picture of Mr. Balfour with his mute violin watching Mr. Bonar Law with his sounding drum, and there is Sir Edward Grey "wondering whether, after all, he is so wise as he looks and sounds in the House of Commons." One cannot see the whole point of these without the words; but in the drawing the words are clothed with laughter, as in a song they are clothed with music.



DEGREES AND EXAMINATIONS.

Coming to the question of degrees and examinations, the report says that the granting of degrees is one of the chief characteristics of a university, though not the real end of its existence. The Commissioners hold that a degree should signify that a university education has been received.

The Commissioners proceed to consider how far an examination is an adequate test to apply (1) when conducted solely by external examiners and (2) when conducted largely by the teachers of the students examined; and how far in each case it is injurious to the real education of the students or can be made to assist its ends. The conclusion at which they arrive is that a purely external examination, based upon a syllabus, does not satisfy the first condition of a proper test. And, further, they think that it fails to satisfy the second condition required because it is injurious to the education of the students, inasmuch as it tends to promote uneducational methods of preparation—that is to say, various forms of cramming.

On the other hand, an examination conducted in the main by the teachers and based upon the instruction which they have given, is, up to a certain point, a valuable and educative test to apply. But if taken alone it is insufficient, and the question of graduation ought not to be allowed to depend exclusively upon this test, since the whole record of the student during his university career should be taken into account.



To the "two most "interested Powers," Austria-Hungary and Russia, special credit is due for the moderation and the self-restraint which ultimately prevailed in their counsels; but France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy have vied with each other in their common zeal for peace. Zeal has not sufficed to preserve peace; insight and judgment, firmness and tact have been needed too. With a pride for which none will rebuke us, for all own it to be just, Englishmen do grateful homage to these highest gifts of statesmanship as they have been manifested in SIR EDWARD GREY. A debate in the House of Commons has borne witness to the feelings of his countrymen. All Europe acknowledges the greatness of his services. Other statesmen in every land have ably seconded his efforts; it has been in part his fortune, but also and chiefly his merit, to direct the general labours to a successful goal. Not until the history of these prolonged negotiations is written shall we know the patience and the skill with which he smoothed over difficulties, composed differences, and assuaged susceptibilities, or the frankness with which he spoke the downright word in season. We can best judge his work by its result and by the complete confidence which all the eminent diplomatists who are labouring with him repose in his straightforwardness and in his justice.



In the final report the town-planners describe in detail the site which they selected, and the details which we have already published show that the area available offers admirable locations for Imperial buildings, houses, parks, etc., while a new cantonment can be placed west of the high rocky ground which runs from north to south. The description of the lay-out is touched with enthusiasm, and we are asked to look upon a fine Imperial city—"a wide outlook . . . ridge, river and plain, the Delhi of to-day and the Delhi of the past." Later may come river treatment and water-effects, so that all the surroundings of the Imperial Capital may be of the most effective kind. Irrigation, aboriculture, scientific drainage, road-making, water-supply and other important points are taken up, and these are dealt with in a severely practical way. The technical features are discussed and expert opinion is quoted to support the conclusions reached. The question of railway communication and the linking together of all the component parts of Delhi so as to form one whole is treated at length; and though details may have to be altered this general scheme seems a sound one.

Looking back on the bitter animosities of these years we can only marvel at the reconciliation which has enabled the Balkan States to unite their forces against the common foe. Such a miracle could only have been brought about by the appearance of a *deus ex machina*—in this case the divine solution was provided by the Young Turks. The Young Turk revolution, with its promise of liberty, justice, and equality for all, was welcomed by the Balkan nations with enthusiasm—tempered, perhaps, by the reflection that the regeneration of Turkey would perpetuate the political *status quo*, but nevertheless, on the whole, sincere. When reaction raised its head at Constantinople large numbers of Christian volunteers marched with the army of Mahmud Shevket to the capital. But the true character of the Turkish revolution was not long in revealing itself; the movement was, in fact, a last effort of the Moslem minority to retain its ascendancy in the face of growing resistance on the part of the subject-race and impending European intervention. The revival of the Constitution was little more than an ingenious device for appeasing Liberal sentiment abroad while furnishing a pretext for the abrogation of the historic rights of the Christian nationalities at home. That the subject-people would combine in defence of their rights, and that their reconciliation would react on the kindred States across the frontier, was not foreseen by the inexperienced but self-confident soldiers and politicians who now directed the destinies of the Turkish Empire.

Mr. Ross joined the staff of *The Times* in 1881, since when he has been dealing, night after night, with current questions in the leading columns of *The Times*. The life of a leader-writer affords small scope to the biographer; and there are few facts to record of the most strenuous and useful portion of Mr. Ross's career. He was a man of wide knowledge of political and especially economic questions, and wrote with effect upon all the subjects that engage public attention from day to day.

He was the master of a vigorous, lucid, and pungent style. It was impossible to mistake the meaning of any sentence that he wrote; and the expression was so incisive that the phrases in his leaders had a tendency to reappear, in current controversy. His "copy" was as clear as his thought and was the delight of the printer; it was boldly and beautifully written, with none of those erasures and interlineations which most journalists indulge in only too frequently. He was a good colleague and a staunch friend: and his shrewd counsel and expressive face will be long missed in the office of *The Times*.



Except on one occasion, when the Turks in retreat gave the Bulgarian gunners a target that a child could not have missed, there always seemed much too much indecision in the manner in which the Bulgarian gunners persevered with their targets. They wasted thousands of rounds in sketchily searching reverse slopes that were unoccupied, while they failed to persevere with fire supremacy that they had already established on known infantry positions. On all occasions, even when they were winning "hands down" as the racing experts say, they were timid in advancing their batteries to really effective ranges. The co-ordination of the fire of batteries was weak. As has been said above, as far as the writer was an eyewitness there was only one occasion on which the artillery fire was properly concentrated upon a common target. This, however, was a target that no individual battery commander could have missed.



Probably the most famous cartoon *Punch* ever published was that entitled "Dropping the Pilot," which appeared at the time of the Iron Chancellor's departure from office. Prince Bismarck appreciated it so highly that he caused his personal thanks to be transmitted to your contemporary. But history has shown that the instinct of the young monarch was sound, though nobody perceived it at the time. At William II's accession Germany, though progressing in certain industries, was still mainly agricultural, an Empire of Prussian squires and Rhenish and South German peasants with a large overflow of emigrants to the United States. Prince Bismarck was a Pomeranian landowner with but a moderate interest in industry, and scarcely any in naval, colonial, or commercial expansion. Oversea possessions were to him not worth the "bones of a Pomeranian grenadier," and his attitude regarding them between 1870 and 1890 accounts more than anything else for the relatively restricted area of Germany's "place in the sun" to-day.

The present Emperor, however, at the very commencement of his reign, realising the importance of economic evolution for the political status of a country, broke through the ring which the military caste had formed round the Prussian throne, and by intimate association with the captains of industry and the pioneers of shipping and commerce, familiarised himself with the strategical and tactical principles of the perennial warfare of international trade. He has since watched this conflict with almost as much concentration and eagerness as if it had been fought out with sword and rifle, and every marked success of German industry has been instantly followed by some sign of Imperial recognition and appreciation. German rivalry and competition have not done us any harm either morally or materially. They have shaken us out of our groove, greatly to our welfare in almost every phase of national life. Indeed, both countries have benefited. To-day Germany is England's best customer; no other country provides such a market for our goods. And we are Germany's best customers.